

# Void 1031

## Chapter 1031 Unity [3]

Damien and Ruyue's battle didn't end until many hours later, but even after finishing, they didn't separate.

In fact, Damien set up a time dilation in the space so they could have several days to themselves without having to bother with the outside world's situation.

Damien had a huge smile on his face the entire time as he foolishly reminisced on that first night, and as he watched Ruyue become more and more animated as the days passed, his expression only melted further.

What was there to say about this time?

Damien and Ruyue didn't really do anything at all. They talked about many things as they shared their experiences, they talked about nonsensical things and reminisced on the past, and they sat around showing each other affection while living the comfortable life of a married mortal couple.

At the moment, Ruyue sat on the couch in the apartment, watching tv attentively with a bowl of popcorn in her arms.

Meanwhile, Damien was in the nearby kitchen with a wry smile on his face as he watched her.

'The contrast between Ruyue's celestial beauty and her NEET habits when she's given the opportunity is scary.' He thought to himself.

Seriously, this girl really knew how to kick back and relax like a shut-in!

'Then again, Ruyue in nothing but an oversized shirt is an addictive sight.'

Damien almost cut himself as he blazed through ingredient prep and stared at her in a daze. Before he realized it, everything he needed was already done.

'Damn, I should've gone slower.'

Damien regrettably turned away from the painting-like scene of Ruyue and turned on the stove, pouring oil into the pan and starting his creation.

'I haven't cooked in a long time, but I don't think my skills have deteriorated that much...well, let's just try it!'

Damien moved quicker than lightning, and gradually, an intoxicating smell spread through the apartment.

Ruyue's nose twitched when it reached her, and she immediately turned her eyes away from the tv.

She jumped up from the couch and joined Damien in the kitchen, hugging his side as she watched him prepare the food.

"Isn't it time to go back yet?" She asked, hints of contradictory worry and reluctance in her voice.

"Why? Are you missing the action?" Damien asked with a smile.

"Not necessarily," Ruyue muttered, "I just..."

"Aha, so it's like that."

Damien smiled to himself as he took the meat off the pan.

"I guess you and Rose got quite close while I was away, eh? I didn't think I'd see the day where you worried about her like this," he said teasingly.

"Hmph, is it wrong that I don't want my sister to suffer? She's done too much for me to simply ignore her kindness!"

"Alright, alright, I was just teasing you. Of course I'm going to spend ample time with Rose as well. You didn't think I'd neglect her, did you?"

"Hmm..."

Ruyue looked away as if she couldn't give a clear answer, making Damien feel endlessly wry.

'Maybe I really should go see her now...'

He shook off the thought, finishing off his small show of cooking and plating the beautiful dishes he'd just made.

They were classic American burgers, one of Damien's comforts growing up. He'd already shown Ruyue and Rose the beauties of earth all the way back then, but in a moment like this, he wanted to bring a piece of his youth back to prominence.

Besides, the scene of Ruyue trying to find a way to eat the burger without dirtying herself was possibly the cutest thing Damien had seen in the past decade.

Nevertheless, the couple made their way to the dining table and dug into their food, light-heartedly conversing as they did and forming plans for the future now that they were back together again.

They calmly spent their time until night fell, and after another show of passion and love, they finally got ready for bed.

Damien looked over at Ruyue's happily sleeping form on the bed next to him.

While he wanted to spend more time with her, her previous words never left his heart.

It had been three days in the Sanctuary, so a full day must've passed in Luxurion.

A full day...

'Even if there are three days before the conference begins, it would be too terrible of me to visit Rose only at the end of that period.'

He brushed his hand through Ruyue's hair as he submerged himself in his thoughts, but soon enough, he felt her cool hands wrapping around his own.

He looked down to find her looking back at him with an understanding smile.

"Go. I am the one who told you to go in the first place. Do you think I would get annoyed at you for actually leaving?"

"But..."

"No buts. We have all the time in the world to spend together, so for now, focus on properly reuniting with her. Big sister might not show it, but she's been waiting for this moment more than anybody else."

Damien sighed.

"I get it," he said.

"Ruyue, thank you."

"Is there any need for that between us?" Ruyue quipped lightly.

Damien smiled. Elena said the same line not long ago, didn't she?

It was really silly to see how these vastly different women all agreed on these smaller things.

"No, there isn't at all," he finally responded, leaning over and kissing Ruyue on the forehead.

"I'll take you to Theavel first so you can explore what your husband has been building all these years. Afterward, I have to cross the most important hurdle yet..."

Facing Rose, a task far more challenging than fighting Demigods.

He was slightly afraid of the moment, but if he didn't do it, he wouldn't be a man.

Therefore, he firmed his will and moved.

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It became a question after seeing Damien's attitude of just why he was so afraid to face Rose.

After all, she was the first wife and also the most accepting of the three. If anything, wouldn't their reunion be the smoothest?

This might've been the opinion of most people, but Damien was different.

Because unlike them, he knew Rose. He knew her just as well as she knew him.

Rose...was not a forgiving person.

If anything, she could be considered an extremely vengeful person.

Damien had left her alone for so long, disappearing without a trace over and over again. The worst part was, every time he came back, he'd brought a new wife for her to share her position with.

Damien knew full well that Rose had no enmity towards Ruyue or Elena. She truly loved them like sisters.

However, what about Damien?

It wasn't Ruyue's fault she got charmed, nor was it Elena's fault. Rose understood Damien's appeal more than anyone else.

It was he who couldn't stop himself from entertaining other women and accepting them, and it was he who did so while neglecting the ones he already had.

Rose let these mistakes go when he was younger, but now that they'd matured, just how would she react?

Damien was not afraid of being reprimanded.

He was afraid of his actions breaking the trust between them.

Chapter 1032 Unity [4]

The relationship between Damien and Rose was inexplicable, to say the least.

It was filled with nuances and subtleties only understood by the two of them, to the point where an outsider would wonder how their love had managed to last until the current day.

Rose was Damien's first wife and first unfettered love in this life, and Damien was hers as well. The duo learned how to love and accept another into their lives together, an experience that brought them far closer than anyone could've expected.

They fell for each other as teens, and their relationship lasted through their twenties...

But the actual time they'd spent together was quite negligible.

Starting from the Cloud Plane, Damien had almost been unable to stop moving from place to place, growing at a pace that nobody in the entire universe could match. As this happened, and as Elena and Ruyue were introduced into their relationship, the time they spent with each other decreased even more until they rarely saw each other at all.

Damien apologized for his actions that day before he left for Niflheim, but he never felt that this apology was good enough. He and Rose weren't able to reach true closure before he was swept away into the Divine Realm.

Naturally, this separation wasn't his fault. If anyone was to be blamed, it was the Fifth Primal Sovereign.

Because if it wasn't for Damien's interference in that heaven-shaking battle, the Human Domain would've lost several more Demigods, a loss they didn't have the ability to take.

Rose understood this as well as Damien, but neither of them could control human nature.

Just as Damien feared their moment of reunion, Rose did too.

Because they truly didn't know what their love would look like after so much time had passed.

They'd both changed greatly, and though their core personality traits were the same, their worldviews were far more evolved than they used to be.

As people who understood the workings of this world and saw the sights it had to offer, could they still maintain that feeling that they originally captured together?

What would happen if they couldn't?

Some might argue that this possibility was too minute for it to become such a concern to them. With the lifespan of a powerful practitioner, a separation of several years meant nothing.

There were couples who'd be separated for thousands of years at a time and still maintain their love.

Only, Damien and Rose were still young. They were still on that journey together to understand love.

To them who lived every day minute by minute, hour by hour, a separation of several years was equivalent to an eternity, especially one that took place during this period of rapid growth.

Nevertheless, they were older now. Rose was in her late twenties, while Damien was a few years into his thirties already.

It was a bit strange since they started out the same age, but regardless, it was a little too late for them to just run away, right?

Damien entered Elena's room in Luxurion again and saw Rose's figure sitting peacefully on a lone chair, looking through a nearby projection of the starry sky beyond.

She was ethereal.

Rose was different from Ruyue and Elena. Her beauty didn't pop out if she was in a crowd, but if one was able to see her like this, in her own environment, it was impossible to find someone more enchanting.

As Damien watched, Rose noticed his presence and turned her eyes to him subtly with a smile.

"All done?" She asked.

"Not quite, but the rest can be done later," he responded, walking up to the bed and collapsing on it.

"Hmm..."

Rose gazed at him curiously.

The awkwardness he carried to this day reminded her that he was the same man she'd fallen in love with, despite the fact that he seemed completely different.

Rose was very perceptive due to her connection with the concept of reality itself, and in her eyes, Damien genuinely looked like he existed in a world beyond the rest of them.

That back was strong, it was domineering and left no room for doubt.

Yet, it was the loneliest back she'd ever seen, reminding her of those days she saw her father listlessly gazing into the sky.

Men who shouldered such burdens needed women by their sides to keep them grounded, but if one thought about themselves from this perspective, it seemed more like a job than a relationship.

Perhaps it was like that for Rose. She ended up viewing her role in Damien's life as a job, her duty.

She'd gotten rid of the misguided notions she used to hold, but she couldn't get rid of this feeling, like she had no worth if she didn't contribute.

But it was strange.

When she was in his presence, these feelings were suppressed by a more powerful force.

The force of love that had existed within her since she was young.

Why were they together?

It was because they loved each other. Did they need to define this love and find a reason for it to exist?

Did Damien give her a reason to seek this answer, to put such strict definitions on their love?

No.

It could be said to be the habit of someone who once lived as royalty.

Plus, it simply didn't matter.

All he knew was that Rose's presence alone was able to give him Damien was unaware of Rose's complex thoughts.

Because to him, it was guilt that held him back. He never doubted his love for her nor did he question what his role in her life was.

It wasn't because he didn't care, but because his love for the three women he was lucky enough to have was one of the only things in his life that he held in absolute certainty.

He would never allow himself to doubt it, for doing so would break the foundation of his emotions.

Plus, it simply didn't matter.

All he knew was that Rose's presence alone was able to give him comfort like no other and remove his worries, and he wanted to be the same for her.

He shifted his head slightly as he noticed the edge of the bed depressing.

He sat up, his shoulder brushing against Rose's as he looked out at the projection she'd been watching so intently before he arrived.

"How was it?" He asked vaguely.

"...it was hard," Rose responded quietly.

"Do you regret it?"

Rose finally turned her head to face him.

"I don't," she stated firmly.

Damien smiled.

"That's nice to hear."

The relationship between Damien and Rose was inexplicable.

Perhaps there would never come a day when another person could understand or rationalize their feelings for each other.

But regardless of the doubts or negative feelings in their hearts, they never wavered or questioned their connection.

Because Rose could clearly see the thick and vibrant red string connecting Damien to her, materializing his deep and unshakable affection for her.

And in a different yet similar way, Damien could intuitively feel the same feelings within Rose.

This reunion, when it came to appeasing, was the easiest for Damien, because he and Rose didn't need words of affection or words of apology. Those were things of the past.

Yet it was also the most unfulfilling.

Maybe those things weren't needed, but what kind of sane person wouldn't crave them from their partner?

The odd atmosphere between them was filled with tension of many different kinds.

Tension that was on the verge of exploding.

Chapter 1033 Conference [1]

What happened between Damien and Rose from that point forth was known by none but the two of them.

The room was isolated in space from the rest of the Real Plane and, while they did spend some time on physical intimacy, it wasn't their focus.

The only thing known about what happened in that room was that Damien and Rose almost felt like a single entity when they left, as if their souls had truly become one.

Nevertheless, Damien had spent a full two days, one for Rose and one for Ruyue, out of the three provided before the conference.

Since he was in the Sanctuary for most of that time, he was able to avoid the eyes looking for him like predators, but his disappearance only led to an increase in these people's interest.

After all, Damien had performed many impossible feats in Holy Light Star. The only times he was invisible to the experts outside was when he and Xue'er were in the central region of the Holy Light Tomb and when he fell into Hassan's restriction.

His fight against Su Ren, his use of the Sanctuary, his impossible healing ability and mystical techniques, all of these things were clearly seen by a large crowd of onlookers.

And Damien suddenly became the hottest topic.

This was the natural reaction of all living beings to the unknown. It was true that the younger generation was powerful and worthy of admiration, but most of the important characters among them were already well-known in the universe, and even if they weren't, their origins could be traced.

Contrasting them was Damien Void, a man who mysteriously appeared in Grand Heavens Boundary and made his advent by cruising through the universe unrestrained, making a name for himself in all corners of the universe.

In these three days where Damien's name was often discussed, his entire history in the wider universe was pieced together.

From the very first moment he entered the Dawn World to his adventures in Hidden Death Valley, Calypto, Eien, Beast Emperor Star, and even the Void Corridor, his "Legend" that always remained separated into its individual parts was formed into a cohesive whole.

And it was a daunting whole to look at.

Even more conversation took place regarding the traitors who attacked during the mystic realm opening.

Their fates needed to be decided.

It was too easy to kill them and be done with it. Unfortunately, it was highly likely that they had restrictions on their bodies and souls that would prevent them from giving any useful information.

As such, it was finally decided that Supreme Soul Palace and the Royal Demon Clan would jointly handle them, using their methods of physical and spiritual torture to hopefully evade the restrictions.

While the atmosphere was filled with anticipation for what was to come, Damien spent most of his time with his wives.

After reuniting with them individually, naturally, the next step was to spend time all together.

He only left a few times, returning Xiao Yue, who was really unable to hide her unwillingness, to Su Ren and taking care of a few other menial tasks.

As Damien comfortably sat with his three women and enjoyed the calm breeze of Theavel's prairies, he closed his eyes and sent his perception into his own body.

He searched a bit before he found the new trait he'd gained. Though it didn't have to be tethered to a part of his body, it did have a physical presence for him to grasp just like all his other traits.

For Law Controller, this presence was in his fingertips.

He sent his mana into them and felt the trait, allowing it to activate.

And instantly, he was hit with a wave of severe pain.

'Khhh...!' He groaned inwardly, not showing an outward change in expression so as to not disrupt the current peace.

His vision blurred as he was sent to a nondescript white room. In it, seven worlds floated together.

'These are...the Infected Source Worlds?'

Damien's eyes widened. It seemed Hassan lost control over Holy Light Star when he transferred the trait, but the Infected Source Worlds were much firmer and didn't disappear from his grasp easily.

'I didn't think it could work like this. The worlds are bound to the trait itself rather than Hassan's body, unlike how my worlds are bound to me and will stay with me even if I lose the Celestial Class.'

It was unfortunate for Hassan, as if he had been able to transfer his trait earlier, he would've been freed from his endless suffering, but to Damien, it was a ray of hope.

He smiled to himself. 'It looks like your impact on the world...will never be forgotten.'

With a slight flexing of his fingers, Damien poured mana into the connection between the trait and the seven worlds.

He felt a constant stream of pain entering his body, allowing him to understand what drove Hassan to insanity.

'But to me, this is just another day.'

Damien welcomed the pain and watched as the seven world projections lit up and shined powerfully.

'Good.'

He slowly opened his eyes and left that space.

For now, he didn't want the Infected Source Worlds to break down.

Letting them be destroyed would only startle the snake. At this juncture, it was imperative for Grand Heavens Boundary to hold its cards close to its chest.

For now, he would take the pain on himself, and when the time was right...

A grin spread on his face.

'It's been such a long time since we had a definitive advantage against the Nox. This time, we may have a chance of success.'

Damien stood up on the small hill where he and the three women were relaxing.

He gazed out into the fields of Theavel, past the happily living common people and towards the only barren stretch of the central continent.

There they were.

Arranged in orderly formations, covered in armor and holding powerful Chaos-rank weapons Damien had gathered over time, were over five hundred thousand troops.

They were Theavel's army, an army that called itself the Void Army, to Damien's horror and anguish.

It was mostly made up of 4th class soldiers, with an elite unit of over 5,000 extreme peak masters.

Of course, as they had limited time to train, these masters didn't reach past the 4th revolution, but their existence was enough.

After all, to Damien's absolute surprise, all of the 5 Emperors had risen to the High Commander level!

Meanwhile, Elvira herself was only a single step away from becoming an Executioner.

'It's a shame I can't use them freely yet. Depending on how the situation evolves after the conference, I can slowly reveal my cards.'

This was Damien's personal army. They'd been training essentially since Damien first took in those from 3000 Beast Mountain Range, and had gradually grown to its current size.

Damien knew they wanted to experience the bloody battles of the outside world just as much as he wanted them to, and he genuinely couldn't wait for the day they finally made themselves known.

'But, it's good that their increases in strength are solidifying the Sanctuary's universal law. Once I start forming more worlds in here, maybe their training speed will increase even more...'

Damien had a hunch.

He was somewhat certain that his existence was able to boost the training speeds of those around him.

The Sanctuary was the best example, but so were the people he held close like his wives.

The strength shown by the Human Domain pleasantly surprised him, but it didn't seem natural.

If his inference was true, his identity held far more secrets than he originally anticipated!

Chapter 1034 Conference [2]

'Haa, when it comes to the Void, is it even worth being surprised anymore? As I learn more about it, it seems more and more like it can just do anything it wants.'

Damien shook off the thought for now. After all, whether it was true or not wasn't important as long as his people could keep improving as fast as they were.

Right now, the time to idle had already passed.

Rose, Ruyue, and Elena stood around Damien as he teleported their group back to the Real Plane.

They exited Elena's room as a unit and made their way through the halls of Luxurion until they finally reached the main conference hall.

"Brat, don't reveal yourself yet. You've put in good work in the time I haven't seen you, offending so many people! Nice work!"

A sound transmission immediately entered Damien's ear, and he couldn't stop himself from grinning.

"Damn old man," he sent back, "don't think you'll be able to talk down to me for much longer. I'm almost there, you know?"

"Hahaha! Don't overestimate yourself! Even when you ascend, I'll still beat you all the same!"

Damien smirked.

"We'll see about that," he responded cockily, ending the conversation.

After sending mental transmissions to his three women about what Tian Yang told him, he naturally separated from them, as if he'd only met them in the hallway moments ago.

He didn't need to have a long talk with Tian Yang to understand the situation.

For now, the fact that Damien came from the Human Domain was being hidden both for his and their protection.

Since Damien had enemies like Immortal Blood Asura who had supreme influence in the universe, it was certain the Human Domain would face trouble if his identity was revealed.

It wasn't like Damien didn't have allies. In fact, he had far more allies than enemies.

Unfortunately, now was a time when these allies wouldn't have the capability to provide adequate existence since they'd be fighting on the frontlines soon enough.

'Still, my identity can be considered a hole card. The Human Domain is mocked due to the inferiority complexes of those in power, but it is respected just as much as it is disdained. When the time comes...'

Damien touched his chest, feeling the absence of a certain force with a grin

'...haha, I can't wait to see the expression on your face when you realize it.'

Damien shook off his thoughts and walked through the banquet hall, succinctly greeting those who greeted him and exchanging some light words with the people he was or wanted to be familiar with.

His sophistry skills had improved greatly after taking in Hassan's memories. Though the reason was cruel, Hassan was someone who was forced to learn how to please people and form connections for the sake of survival.

Damien displayed an eloquence that was completely unexpected by those he spoke to, and their opinions of him were naturally greatly positive.

As this kind of miscellaneous socializing continued, the Heavenly Clan moved behind the scenes to prepare for the coming event.

Luciel sat at the head of a conference table, the same table used in the discussion that brought the Grand Assembly into existence.

His hands were intertwined under his chin as his elbows rested on the table. He panned his gaze across the surrounding Angels, his mysterious smile back on his face like nothing went wrong.

"Has everything been prepared?" He asked softly.

"Yes, leader. All provisions have been set in place and are awaiting your call," an Angel responded with a bow.

"Good," Luciel said definitively.

"Leader, will they...really come?" Another Angel asked hesitantly.

"They?" Luciel repeated with a slight twinkle in his eyes.

"They will surely come."

"Then..."

"You wish to ask why I do not provide them more help?"

The questioning Angel nodded, unable to hold her curiosity.

"Hmm..." Luciel hummed obscurely.

"Say, do you understand how body tempering works?"

The questioning Angel's eyes widened, and those around her couldn't help but mimic her reaction.

Did Luciel...really mean what he just said?

If so, it seemed even the conference wouldn't be able to take place peacefully!

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Somewhere in the Divine Realm, several figures appeared from the folds of space, standing together as they gazed into the distance, where Luxurion brightly shone.

"Finally arrived!" A woman among them exclaimed, stretching her arms over her head.

"Hmm, it is not as impressive as expected," the man next to her stated.

There were five young men and women among them, four of whom carefreely conversed in the starry sky. Meanwhile, their leader didn't take his gaze off Luxurion.

'Lord Father said I must go, but for what reason? Such a gathering is not worthy of me.'

He didn't deign to entertain those in Luxurion in the slightest, but his father's orders were inviolable.

'Perhaps there truly will be something...? Lord Father is not the type to do things needlessly.'

His face was painted with a permanent frown, but he moved regardless of his opinions.

Behind his group, hundreds of shadows materialized in the void. They were led by a man with an unfathomable aura and an appearance like an aged version of the man from earlier.

As he watched his son move towards Luxurion, a wide and unreadable smile spread on his face.

'I wonder...will you enjoy my gift this time? I truly hope you can live up to my expectations...my little Seed.'

The group moved quietly, following their geniuses in the dark.

Trouble was soon to descend on Luxurion.

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The day passed rapidly in the relatively harmonious atmosphere that blanketed Luxurion.

No forces took the time to create conflict, and those who had prior conflict were kept away from each other by the Angels of the Heavenly Clan for the sake of peaceful continuation.

By the time the day ended, many forces began to filter through the Sky Castle.

Most returned to their rooms and dwellings for the night, understanding that their role here was no longer important. At most, they'd be able to take advantage of Luxurion's facilities for a bit longer.

However, the rest moved to a new section of the Sky Castle that had been restricted from them.

By decree of the Heavenly Clan, aside from the Holy Land level influences, 2 influences from each sector were allowed to attend the conference,

This led to a number upward of 500 people going deeper into Luxurion until they arrived at an atrium with an open roof that showcased the starry sky above.

Many seats were arranged in the space that was sectioned off into seven areas reserved for each sector.

Naturally, the Human Domain area was the smallest of them all, but this was not a sight of mockery, but one of reality.

After all, unlike the other sectors that sent several forces, the Human Domain only sent one group of ten.

Nevertheless, as the experts and younger generation flooded the space and took their places, the atmosphere around them experienced a great change.

Now, the calm and peaceful times in the Sky Castle were over.

It was time for them to decide the fate of their universe.

The true Grand Assembly was on the verge of beginning.

Chapter 1035 Conference [3]

There were roughly 5 to 6 Holy Lands in every sector aside from the Human Domain, a total of 40. Along with the subsidiary forces that joined them, there were a total of 53 influences in the atrium.

After they'd all taken their seats and organized themselves, Luciel and his fellows from the Heavenly Clan, as well as Lucifer and his group, took their places in the head of the space.

They were the arbiters of this conference, a privilege granted to them by their position as the strongest influences in the universe.

"My fellow practitioners, now that we have arrived in this place, it is time to drop all personal feelings and plan for the future," Luciel said, standing up and facing those around him.

"There are three main subjects that this discussion will cover. Our counterattack plan is the most important, followed by internal problems, and the nurturing of the younger generation. The order in which we address them will be decided through a vote that we will hold now."

Luciel snapped his fingers and a formation activated, lifting dark barriers between each group so they couldn't influence each other's decisions.

After establishing privacy, he listed the topics and allowed those present to cast their votes.

When the barriers fell, he spoke again.

"Then, we will begin with a discussion of our internal struggles."

A few whispers spread through the audience as they questioned why talk of the younger generation didn't start the convention, but they didn't cause a fuss.

The topic of internal struggles didn't pertain to the relationships between influences. These personal matters were left for them to sort out by themselves.

The only exception was if their conflicts impacted the big picture.

The main point of consideration was traitors.

Everyone had surely experienced it on their own, but the raid on Holy Light Star was a true eye-opener to just how corrupted the universe's internal structure was.

There were over a thousand influences that were wiped out due to their participation in the previous event, and the fact that the Nox were willing to easily discard so many rats was a testament to the sheer number of outlets they had!

Luxurion was able to locate traitors, but not many other locations had the same specifications as the Sky Castle, and recently...

"We've found that it has become difficult to detect the breath of Nox Mana in the defectors. They must've evolved some new technology or technique that is at least Demigod-rank for it to be able to fool our ancestor-level figures," a man said solemnly.

He was a Demigod from Supreme Soul Palace, a Holy Land specialized in soul and spirit techniques. If anyone had the right to speak on detection, it was them.

The eye techniques of Supreme Soul Palace were second only to the Ancient God Clan, after all.

And after the demigod spoke up, Di, who was also in attendance, raised his voice in support.

"The Ancient God Clan has also noticed this issue. We were not able to see through the traitors who infiltrated Luxurion until after they had been captured."

"Has everyone else been experiencing the same?" Luciel asked, eliciting a wave of nods and murmurs of agreement.

"I see...what is the opinion of Hephaestus?"

A group of dwarves stood up in response. Their height wasn't too great, but their builds were muscular like giants, an odd combination.

"The smitheries have already been notified of the issue. We'll start working on a solution right away," the dwarf at their head promised.

"Very well. Until then, we will have to keep a strict watch for prospective traitors. The best temporary solution is the same as we've always done, universal checks and balances, however, we must be more domineering in our approach," Luciel concluded.

"Wait..."

A voice came from the Human Domain section.

It was Tian Yang who stood up to speak.

"Being domineering at this juncture will startle the snakes. Now that Luxurion's attack has failed, we have the opportunity to play arrogant and let the traitors reveal themselves."

He panned his eyes across the atrium, not even pausing briefly as his eyes scanned past Damien, who stood with Hidden Death Valley, until his gaze connected with Luciel's.

"The greatest advantage we have is our perceived weakness. Now is the time for us to hold our cards close to our chest and prepare for the perfect chance to attack."

The line of reasoning was very similar to what Damien thought when he chose to maintain the Infected Source Worlds, and in fact, it was Damien himself who urged Tian Yang to speak.

After all, his current status was that of a heavenly genius, a member of the younger generation who didn't have enough strength to speak in a conversation like this.

He was planning to maintain this status for now, but he was also aware that his deeds had already been spread and the people here understood how much of the universe he'd seen.

It was just, Damien didn't want to take his chances this early. He still wanted to see how the situation would pan out.

Tian Yang's opinion was relatively well-received by the other sectors, and even Luciel gave a nod of approval.

"This is a good idea, however, such an operation cannot be carried out without cooperation. Everyone needs to watch their own sectors in tandem and communicate information efficiently so we can assess the proper timing mentioned by the Void Old Immortal."

Luciel said a few more words, and several other experts offered their own opinions. As minutes passed, the structure of a plan began to arise.

At this juncture, Luciel brought up the most important aspect of correcting Grand Heavens Boundary's internal situation:

"Infected Source Worlds. After the destruction of the Elven Domain and Eden, there are seven remaining. If we can destroy them, we can eliminate the threat of new traitors and focus on the ones already existing."

"Ah..." Parsiel suddenly gasped, realizing he'd forgotten to tell Luciel an important fact.

Lucifer spoke up in his stead.

"Actually, there are only 6 Infected Source Worlds left."

His eyes turned to the Human Domain group in amusement.

"Isn't that right?"

Tian Yang grinned.

"That is right. Our Human Domain forces destroyed the Infected Source World in our domain roughly 2 years ago. Since then, we have been focusing on eliminating traitors and cleaning the domain..."

"...at this time, we can proudly declare that the Human Domain is free of Nox influence," Tang Lingzi finished his words.

It was the second shocking revelation of the conference, and perhaps the greatest one so far.

Admiration wasn't enough to describe the feeling the crowd felt hearing this news.

To thoroughly root out the Nox from an entire domain was unheard of. After all, even if one could kill every traitor, as long as the Nox occupied a world in the domain, new traitors would always appear to replace them!

Infected Source Worlds were strange and unexplainable. Even if one killed every Nox produced by it, halting its production or destroying the world totally had been impossible to this point.

This was due to the convoluted world laws they held, laws that protected the core facilities of the worlds and gave them an ability bordering on immortality.

But unlike the Infected Source Worlds of other domains, the unnamed world was filled with surprises, such as the Fifth Primal Sovereign and the untouched World Core that Damien stole.

The influence of Hassan's law bindings on it was far weaker than those on other worlds, and the situation in the unnamed world was vague to begin with.

While the Human Domain's victory could be considered a product of supreme luck...

Nobody else needed to know that, did they?

Chapter 1036 Conference [4]

The Human Domain's news had a relatively negative impact on the rest of the universe, mainly for the reason that it gave them hope that their Infected Source Worlds could also be destroyed.

However, worlds with infected cores like Calypto were usually unsalvageable, which was the reason why Damien's purifying and binding of Calypto held such deep meaning.

Nevertheless, fate hadn't abandoned them yet. Perhaps previously their hope would've led to their downfall, but the situation of the Infected Source Worlds had changed.

Damien smiled as he listened to the various conversations that took place as plans began to form to get rid of the scourges of the universe in one fell swoop.

From the looks of it, this conference would be relatively harmonious for a bit.

Damien could clearly feel the killing intent trying to break his mind subtly emanating from Blood Asura Holy Land, and he could also feel the surrounding experts quietly paying attention while pretending they didn't sense anything.

'But their killing intent is just because of our grudge, I guess. Surprisingly enough, there's no Nox mana on them.'

Unlike the Ancient God Clan and Supreme Soul Palace, Damien's special eyes weren't inhibited by the Nox's new methods.

the same person who couldn't stand politics and sophistry.

'The major influences aren't stupid enough to directly submit He wasn't able to see any traitors in the atrium, but he'd seen plenty of dark characters while he was entertaining those who wished to speak to him the day before.

If not to scout them out, why would Damien ever attend such a dreary function? Regardless of his newfound eloquence, he was still the same person who couldn't stand politics and sophistry.

'The major influences aren't stupid enough to directly submit themselves to the Nox. At most, they'll use lesser disciples without much status as scapegoats to hold the connection for them. If they have dealings with the Nox, it'd be more similar to business than subordination.'

It was difficult. The people he was currently dealing with had been at the top of the universe for long enough that they knew how to control their expressions and auras to give nothing away, and their geniuses were uninformed in the first place.

He couldn't glean anything from them, nor did he care for the current conversation.

He had his own plans for the universe's traitors, and he was sure they wouldn't escape his grasp.

Nevertheless, Damien paid slight attention to the affairs being discussed and faded into the background as the topic shifted and morphed.

Finally, after almost 6 hours of discussion, the basis of a plan was formulated and the next topic came into conversation.

The plans for counterattacking.

It was a natural segue from clearing the Infected Source Worlds. How were they going to keep the Nox from interfering while they made such a big move?

It was clear they couldn't be passive anymore. Under Luciel and Lucifer's guidance, the Holy Lands coordinated the forces they held and the forces under them, distributing them through Eien and the starry sky.

The crux of the plan was to form an absolute net that was impossible to penetrate and line its edge with an unending stream of attacks that didn't give the Nox a chance to interrupt them.

It was a solid plan on paper, but it was hard to say how the execution would go.

Regardless, there was nothing to do but wait.

'It's annoying. Things take too much time to happen, and it's not just because of politics. Maybe I should...'

A sudden idea came to mind. Damien understood what he could do for the universe immediately, something that didn't need to wait for ages and ages to come to fruition.

'Coming here was really beneficial. Even though these conversations don't affect me much, I'm able to visualize the future much better because of them.'

Damien had never experienced this before. He was always alone, and when he joined an influence, he never cared to reach its highest level and become a part of these conversations.

He finally felt like he was part of the universe, wholly and truly.

And as he rationalized this feeling, the topic made its final change.

It had been an entire day, and the allocation of forces hadn't made much progress. This was the stage when the Holy Lands fought their subtle fights and attempted to compete needlessly, and as Luciel and Lucifer weren't willing to deal with it at an important time like this, they postponed the allocation discussion to a later time.

The final act of the three Luciel mentioned began, and fierce discussion began centering around the younger generation.

It was curious. Every influence was naturally biased towards their own geniuses, but after the Holy Light Star showed them how those geniuses ranked against their peers, they were no longer able to show that bias.

Instead, it was a generally healthy process where the majority of opinions matched.

Until Damien's name came up.

Damien Void, a name that had been spoken almost egregiously in the past few days and weeks, was a genius among geniuses, a man who came out of nowhere and matched the universe's top genius in strength.

Once his history was put together, his age was also approximated.

Damien Void was definitely not 40 yet.

It was an inconceivable notion that was somehow absolute fact.

He was a genius that all people unanimously agreed must be supported.

Or at least, that's how most thought it was going to be.

"Wait," a man stood up in the Blood Asura Holy Land section and raised his voice.

His name was Adrian, one of Immortal Blood Asura's many sons and the current spokesperson for their Holy Land.

"I understand what this young man represents, but we should not put too much effort into him. His origins are unknown and he has shown a history of leaving his allegiances to pursue strength. His loyalty cannot be trusted."

The man's words seemed dubious to those who appreciated Damien's talent, but surprisingly enough, several voices of agreement rose to follow them.

"In this critical period, it is better to support geniuses from our Holy Lands who have valid backing. Everyone here knows Hidden Death Valley has no standard for the disciples they accept! If..."

Damien smiled inexplicably as he tuned out the man's words and turned his gaze to the old man who sat behind him.

'So this is how you want to play?' He thought to himself in amusement.

Immortal Blood Asura acted like he didn't feel Damien's gaze, while the man who spoke turned to face Damien and furiously pointed at him.

"...how can we know this man isn't a traitor?!"

He finished his words with a bang, eliciting several gasps.

"You should control your children."

Damien responded within the silence, kicking his feet up on the table before him and grinning.

"Children?" The man repeated in confusion.

"Hush, I'm not talking to you."

"You...!"

"Seriously, control him. You don't want to be making baseless accusations, right?"

Immortal Blood Asura turned his eyes indifferently, glancing at his son.

Adrian stopped immediately, quick to the point where he genuinely choked on his words.

"Quite arrogant," Immortal Blood Asura uttered.

His voice wasn't loud, but it filled the space with terrifying energy.

"Are you going to deny his words?"

Damien shrugged confidently, not bending under the pressure.

"Why wouldn't I? Are you going to keep pushing this bullshit about me being a traitor?"

Immortal Blood Asura's lips curved just slightly.

"I have no reason not to. After all, I witnessed your betrayal personally."

Chapter 1037 Conference [5]

"I have no reason not to. After all, I witnessed your betrayal personally."

Immortal Blood Asura's words shook the atrium, but they weren't allowed to fester for too long.

"Immortal Blood Asura, do you mean to insult me? Damien is my own student. Do you think I cannot sense the difference between a young hero and a traitor?"

Alucard was the first to speak up, coldly glaring at Immortal Blood Asura.

"Indeed, Immortal Blood Asura, do not think you can use your status to harm the younger generation. Damien is the savior of our clan. He is not some traitor scum."

The Golden Dragon Emperor also made a stand, and his words were soon supported by several more influences.

The Ancient God Clan, Demon Sealing Pantheon, Azure Rain Star, Fallen Star Holy Land, Prismatic Sun Holy Land, and even Heaven's Army's representatives voiced their support for Damien.

Right, he didn't just travel the universe, he left his mark on every corner he passed by, creating connections with countless forces and participating in even more battles against the Nox.

Accusing him of being a traitor?

It was a laughable thing. Why would a traitorous man thwart the Nox's plans with such determination over and over again?

Immortal Blood Asura's expression soured with every force that stood up, but he didn't lose his composure.

Until the final one made their stand.

"The crux of your problem is the fact that you don't know his origin, right?"

Tian Yang grinned, causing Damien's eyes to widen.

In his eyes, the Human Domain could be defended with enough effort, but his disciple could never be defamed like this.

"Damien Void is a disciple of my Celestial Star Palace, the expert titled Heaven's Wrath due to his monstrous abilities, the husband of the princess of the Adelaire Empire of Apeiron, and a proud native of our Human Domain!"

Damien blushed a bit inwardly at the exaggerated introduction, but he kept his confident expression on the outside as countless eyes turned to him incredulously.

Since Tian Yang chose to reveal their relationship, he naturally wasn't going to back down!

"That's how it is," he said with a smirk, his eyes tauntingly meeting Immortal Blood Asura's.

"I'm an earthling born and raised. Isn't that crazy? The genius you put so much value in is from the domain you disdain the most. I almost want to laugh at the ridiculousness of it all."

The atrium went from silence to an explosion of murmurs and isolated conversations in a single instant.

Did this even make sense?!

The Human Domain had already proven itself on Holy Light Star. Their younger generation held the record for most Demigod-rank treasures collected during the expedition, and now it turned out that their top genius was an even greater monster!

The reputation they held before their fall suddenly appeared in the minds of these experts.

A dwelling of heroes, a domain that only raised Emperors.

How domineering!

Nevertheless, Immortal Blood Asura's sour expression didn't stop him from pursuing the matter.

He didn't care about Arthur or Reavus' deaths in the slightest, but he couldn't allow this brat to continue humiliating him and his Holy Land!

The Blood Asura Holy Land was always known as the most fearsome of the Demigod-level influences. This was because of their arrogant and cruel behavior that consisted of doing whatever was necessary for their own personal gain.

So many had suffered under their hand, but they'd never suffered at the hands of another!

"Gentlemen, do not be so quick to voice your support. As I proclaimed earlier, I personally witnessed his transformation. It will only take an in-depth scan of his body with your awareness to realize the truth."

As he spoke, he turned to Luciel and Lucifer, who glanced between him and Damien with slightly agitated frowns on their faces.

It was clear that Immortal Blood Asura was trying to oppress someone he didn't like, but the certainty he showed wasn't normal.

There was truly a chance that Damien had converted and found a way to hide the mana in his body.

However, it was impossible for him to deflect the perception of a Demigod who was bent on checking his body.

The only problem was, if they didn't have his consent to undergo the search, such an action would violate the universal restriction on Divinities.

"What do you think?" Luciel asked Damien without an ounce of enthusiasm.

Damien shrugged with the same energy. "Just get it over with. We both know I have nothing to hide."

Luciel nodded and beckoned to Lucifer. The two of them pulled out slips of jade and crushed them, causing the light of spatial fluctuation to fill the space.

An Angel and a Demon Demigod appeared upon being summoned and were quickly filled in on the situation by their juniors.

"So it's this boy?" The demon said with interest. Actually, he wasn't a totally unfamiliar face.

His name was Arturo, and he'd been seen once before conversing with Eden's strongest Demigod, a woman who still hadn't shown her face in the universe yet.

The Angel, on the other hand, was a woman with a stern and indifferent expression who did nothing but glance over Damien before losing interest.

Damien smiled wryly at these curious seniors and offered his wrists, which they grabbed soon enough.

Damien felt two waves of awareness spread through his body.

They were extremely powerful and Damien could sense that nothing he did could repel them from the truth.

The only thing that could hide from them was the Void.

Damien frowned slightly, while Immortal Blood Asura's expression became more and more mocking.

His words weren't false.

Not long ago, he'd seen Damien intake and incorporate a large amount of Nox Mana through his Avatar. No matter how he managed to hide this mana, he wouldn't be able to hide it from a Demigod.

He waited patiently for the anguished expressions of those who opposed him, but when the two impartial Demigods stepped away...

"Wow! What is this kid's body? Since when did our universe have a genius like this?!"

"Hmm, this child is gifted. Luciel, make sure to nurture him well."

The reactions were completely opposite of what he expected!

Damien's body was free of any Nox influence, and was instead filled with countless mysteries that granted him limitless potential.

It was almost comedic how fast Immortal Blood Asura and his group's expressions changed. Their gloating turned into confusion and eventually shame as they received the scornful gazes and words of their peers.

Perhaps Immortal Blood Asura had seen Damien absorb Nox Mana that day, but Damien had long since gotten rid of it!

Knowing this exact moment would come, he spent time in Beast Emperor Star clearing the corrupted mana out of his system and feeding it to Zara, who hid in the Sanctuary.

'Great!' Damien exclaimed as he watched the situation rapidly evolve.

'Now that this has been solved, I can slowly start bringing Zara out again!'

It was great news indeed. Zara had been cooped up in the Sanctuary for a very long time now, and it was about time she showed her face again.

Damien had genuinely been waiting for this moment to happen for a very long time, and now that it was passing, his excitement was palpable.

Especially now that he had front-row seats to the Roast of Blood Asura Holy Land!

Chapter 1038 Conference [6]

As mentioned before, Blood Asura Holy Land was incredibly forceful in their approach towards others, and there was no such thing as an influence who was friendly with them.

They were either subordinates or future subordinates, and this exact attitude made them a great deal of enemies and a bad reputation.

Immortal Blood Asura never cared for these things before. After all, regardless of what they said, these people still had to face him and his people with respect and fear, unable to retaliate.

But today, the negative emotions towards his Holy Land exploded.

Damien's matter was a blatant abuse of power, and it finally happened in the public eye, in a setting where Immortal Blood Asura held no power.

Criticisms rained down like a natural disaster, filling the atrium with a cacophony of sound as the remaining Holy Lands used the matter as an excuse to bring the arrogant group down a peg.

It was a bit childish considering the status of these people, but it was definitely an entertaining sight to see.

Aside from the influences closely associated with Blood Asura Holy Land and the Holy Land's members themselves, whose faces were painted black in rage and shame, the younger generation was filled with laughter and snickers as this unexpected scene panned out.

Immortal Blood Asura's blood was practically boiling.

Eating losses to Damien over and over again was already unacceptable, but now even his peers were humiliating him?!

He was on the verge of losing his patience, and just as his final straw snapped...

CRASH!

A loud sound reverberated from the sky above the atrium.

When those present looked up, they saw the barrier protecting Luxurion shattering as several hundred unidentified beings invaded the space.

"Be careful! Everyone get ready for combat!" Luciel yelled, immediately quelling the ongoing arguments and drawing attention to the threat at hand.

The group descended intentionally and landed on the ground below without interruption.

Nobody was willing to move early.

Because most of these people were Demigods and Supremes, beings of unbelievable strength.

They were led by a man who just looked like he was born to be a villain.

A man whose face was already very familiar to Damien.

"Saint Emperor!" He muttered under his breath.

The Saint Emperor smilingly landed on the atrium floor and gazed around the room, his eyes pausing for a moment on Damien before continuing.

"Hello, all. I am known as the Saint Emperor, or rather I believe your universe refers to me as the Blight Emperor."

His introduction was enough to put everyone on edge.

When it came to Nox Demigods, the Blight Emperor was known as the most terrifying one, because he was both powerful and not afraid to utilize every loophole possible to involve himself in conflicts where his interference should've been impossible.

What was a man like that doing here?!

No, it was obvious why he'd break into Luxurion. The real question was: what was going to happen now?

The Saint Emperor smiled as he felt the fear filling the atmosphere.

"Worry not, I have not come to fight. This time, my presence is only a means of suppression."

Before anyone could react, the shadows behind him spread through the atrium and raised their weapons, releasing their terrifying auras on the universe's experts.

'Damn!' Lucifer thought to himself.

'They really aren't here to fight. This is a warning and a show of strength. But...for what reason?'

If he immobilized the experts, did he want to target the younger generation?

But if he did so, did he think the experts would still care for their lives so cautiously?

The Saint Emperor didn't let his audience wait too long before he answered their suspicions, making way for a group of young men and women who were hidden within the crowd of shadows previously.

"I'm sure some of you are already acquainted, but I may as well make an introduction regardless."

"These are the geniuses my race is most proud of, led by my son. Today, we have come to give them a bit of worldly experience."

His words were clearly dripping in sarcasm and provocation.

The first four geniuses were one thing, but the last one was the Saint King himself!

This was a Nox Being who'd previously beaten Su Ren and usurped his position as the universe's number one, a loss the universe would never forget.

The Saint King looked down on the universe's geniuses contemptuously as he spoke.

"I am only here because Lord Father thinks there is someone worthy here, but I do not believe him. If the trash in this room is your universe's best, I should be ashamed of my brethren for taking so long to destroy you."

His words were harsh and elicited several provoked growls, but nobody moved.

"Haa, there is no point in acting here. Face my juniors first. If you can defeat them, perhaps you'll be able to last a few blows under my hand."

The Saint King crossed his arms and took a seat on an ornate chair he summoned from his spatial ring. Meanwhile, the four geniuses who came with him stepped forward, taking out their weapons and pointing them at the crowd.

"I am Luxiya."

"I am Haren."

"I am Haryda."

"I am Palak."

""Who dares to compete with us?!""

They introduced themselves powerfully and flared their auras, sending their challenge loud and clear.

Luciel glanced between the geniuses and the Saint Emperor before letting out a sigh.

In the end, it couldn't be avoided.

If they succeeded, their future plans would go much smoother, but if they failed, they'd lose momentum before they even began their counterattack!

"Go. Show them the power of our Grand Heavens Boundary."

His words weren't many, but they instantly motivated the young men and women in the crowd.

Four people jumped out to face the Nox geniuses before the rest.

Three of them were Rose, Ruyue, and Elena, who were eager to test their power and compete to see who was the best.

The last was a miscellaneous genius from a Holy Land in Hephaestus.

The four duos faced each other with their weapons raised and their bodies readied for combat.

As Luciel said, it was time for Grand Heavens Boundary to prove itself!

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While tensions increased immensely in Luxurion, a great calamity was taking place elsewhere.

BOOOOOOOM!

A pulse of formless mana tore through a beautiful jungle, destroying billions of kilometers of land and obliterating all life that was present there.

In the next instant, the realm regrew itself and the resident fauna reappeared as if the apocalypse never overtook it.

Still, the ground was covered in strange patterns caused by the stress of constant destruction and reconstruction on a grand scale.

This area that could be considered a sub-universe of its own, yet it was being destroyed tens of times every hour...

...all due to the presence of a single being.

In the center of that land, perched atop the tallest mountain, was a being so large its shadow was painted in the clouds.

That being was coiled up around itself and breathing calmly, hibernating, however, there was a massive bloody wound on the side of its body that created a stark contrast from its otherwise peaceful appearance.

Every time a drop of blood fell from that wound, the mana it carried burst into the realm and destroyed it in full.

This being was clearly dying.

But at the rate it was going, it would definitely take the sub-universe with it to the afterlife!

Chapter 1039 Disruption [1]

The fighting began almost instantaneously.

Nox and denizen experts crowded the hall in a way where neither could make a premature move, and all eyes were focused on the four pairs of geniuses currently in combat.

The central area of the atrium had been expanded by formations into a true arena floor that gave these geniuses space to fight.

Ruyue fought against the one named Luxiya.

Her spear was drawn from the beginning, as the fluctuations of the enemy's weapon were extremely terrifying.

The two women faced each other in melee combat first. Ruyue's spear clashed against Luxiya's staff with immense force. Shockwaves spread from the impact, cracking the ground around them and putting heavy pressure on their wrists.

'Strong!' Ruyue exclaimed inwardly as her eyes hardened.

The Nox truly weren't to be underestimated. This Luxiya's physical strength was already so domineering, her mana couldn't be weak either.

But either way, Ruyue wouldn't be the first to fold!

The only mana she used was infused into her body and weapon like the path of a true body practitioner, and though she couldn't use the Moon Goddess Spear Arts without Yin Mana, she wasn't dull!

Ruyue derived a fighting technique out of her main spear technique a long time ago for situations where her Yin Mana would be detrimental to her, and now was a perfect time to test its worth!

'Horizontal Flow.'

Ruyue's spear cleaved parallel to the ground with a relatively slow speed but extreme power behind it.

"Hmph!" Luxiya snorted condescendingly as she released mana into her staff and slammed it into the ground in Ruyue's spear path.

However, at that moment, a change took place.

Swoosh!

Ruyue's spear suddenly sped up and twisted like a snake, impossibly maneuvering around Luxiya's defense and piercing towards her stomach!

Bang!

The spear made contact with a mana barrier, but Luxiya was pushed back several hundred meters with blood flying from her mouth.

Ruyue smirked to herself and launched forward, chasing the enemy.

"Since I took first blood, I'll fight my way."

As she spoke, her mana flared and the temperature dropped staggeringly. The ground was coated in a thin layer of ice that solidified every time Ruyue's feet touched it.

The icy atmosphere spread with Ruyue until she reached Luxiya, raising her spear with killing intent in her eyes.

'Moon Goddess Spear Arts: Cleave.'

SHING!

It was a beautiful strike. The spear moved so exquisitely, yet with such indiscernible speed, that it was like a lens flare in the eyes of those watching.

The spear cleaved as Ruyue commanded, following the principles of Yin she'd only regained contact with.

Swift, flexible, and unavoidable!

These were the thoughts that flew through Luxiya's mind as she watched the blade near her. With no other choice, she exploded with power and shoved walls of inky black mana into its path.

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Bang!

Each wall was torn down as fast as it was put up, but it seemed pointless for them to exist at all.

For while her spear continued forward on its path, Ruyue concealed herself and snuck behind Luxiya, raising her finger to the back of the woman's head.

"Obliterate."

There was no sound. A small black light shone on Ruyue's fingertip for a single second before disappearing into Luxiya's skull.

In the next instant...

"W-wha—"

Halfway through expressing her shock, Luxiya's mouth dispersed into a cloud of ashes.

As the Nox woman's eyes twisted in terror, Ruyue smiled.

"Foolish."

With one last word, she sent a final strike into her opponent's remains, exterminating any life remaining in the blob of ink Luxiya had become.

It was an incredibly short fight, a show of Ruyue's improvement since coming to the Divine Realm, and her sisters were not willing to be outdone either.

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While Ruyue was fighting Luxiya, Elena set her sights on the other woman of the group, Haryda.

And frankly, she was almost pitying her opponent.

Since achieving Transcended Death and becoming accustomed to its properties, Elena had truly become the bane of all things related to Death.

And the Nox...wasn't the Nox's mana based on the concepts of death?

As soon as she pulled out her newly comprehended concept, the battle was already her victory.

The Nox named Haryda wasn't bad by any means. She used a bow as her main weapon and her mana contained a strange property that made her attacks absolutely accurate, but what did this accuracy matter?

Every time an arrow came near her, Elena covered her hands in Life Mana and snatched it out of the air.

Her mana corrupted the arrow into one of Transcended Death, and she sent it back with twice the fury she'd received.

Haryda was forced into a situation where she couldn't use her main weapon. She put the bow away and moved in for melee combat, but there wasn't a worse decision she could've possibly made.

Elena's specialty was always fighting close quarters, face to face. As soon as Haryda was in her range, she was subjected to a torment of a thousand blades and an absolute suppression caused by the domain of Life Mana that surrounded Elena!

The battle ended just a little after Ruyue's, mainly because Haryda was much stronger than Luxiya, but neither Nox women had pleasant deaths.

In fact, Luxiya might have had it easier since she felt no pain.

Haryda, on the other hand, was corroded by Life Mana until she finally couldn't take it anymore, an ironic and excruciating way to die.

Truly, Elena held the appearance of a grand Valkyrie vanquishing evil!

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And finally, the quickest among the three.

Rose's opponent was the man named Palak. While he didn't make any obvious remarks, the look in his eyes was filled with perversion.

It was a cruel perversion, like he was imagining the scene of Rose being cut up and brutally tortured and getting excited for it.

With Rose's perception, sensing this delusion was as easy as reading Damien.

The ability to turn fantasy into reality, to make illusions so true that they couldn't be distinguished from reality, or rather, constituted a reality of their own.

This was the path Rose was pursuing, and her attainments weren't small at all.

Papal found himself in a white room, his body returned to mortality.

And with him not able to make a single move, he was strapped to a chair and brutally tortured until he was finally burned alive and killed.

How could he have known that it was all an illusion?

All Rose did was place him under her control, walk up to his unmoving body, and sever his head, but the pain he felt was so vibrant that even in that final moment when the illusion dispersed, he couldn't recognize reality.

Rose's victory wasn't just convoluted, it was a shocking display to all present.

Rose became a name on people's watchlists, enemies and allies alike.

Nevertheless, the three battles fought by Human Domain geniuses were proudly won as people had come to expect from the Human Domain.

The Nox was brought down three pegs in just a few instants, and the expression on the Saint King's face was priceless!

The prospects of these battles suddenly shifted for the better, however...

Chapter 1040 Disruption [2]

The first three of the battles were spectacular in their own unique ways, but the last was a travesty.

The unknown Holy Land genius was beaten down within three moves and thrown out of the arena.

His body and soul were crippled, and it was his mind was no longer present. A line of drool slipped out of the side of his mouth as he was rapidly collected by his sect's Elders.

They did everything they could to heal him, using a mysterious pill that was rare even in their eyes, but there was no hope.

The young man was braindead, and his body was soon to follow.

A new genius came to replace him as fury enveloped the Grand Heavens Boundary crowd, but the results didn't change.

In fact, the process repeated itself six times. Six separate geniuses were utterly crippled and the influences of the universe became hesitant to send their own people forward.

In this way, the three victories from before were overshadowed by six consecutive losses, and the denizens lost the momentum they briefly held.

When nobody else was willing to step forward, however, a single man made his stand.

He was Atticus.

Atticus had gone through a journey of self-discovery ever since he arrived in Luxurion, and now that such a situation was happening before his eyes, he couldn't sit still!

Damien and Su Ren were the strongest two present, but both of them were clearly waiting for the Saint King.

Since someone needed to take down the man named Haren, he would step up!

It was a moment for Atticus to prove himself, and when he took his place on the arena floor, he did exactly that!

He used a splendid combination of Lightning Laws and Fire Laws to entrap and ensnare his opponent in an inviolable net of death, slowly cornering the once-thought-invincible genius to death!

The thing about Haren that made him impossible for others to defeat was mainly his Demonic Providence, which allowed him to transfer accumulated damage back to its sender as long as he could perfectly parry one of their strikes.

Haren had long become accustomed to this limitation and honed his skills until he was a master who could parry even the most convoluted blows.

Unfortunately, this skill meant nothing in front of Atticus.

Atticus was faster than lightning itself and so frenzied that it became impossible to figure out where his true body was in the storm of afterimages that appeared.

Atticus' fighting style had undergone a complete change, and its effects were shown clearly against Haren.

Unable to find an effective time to parry, Haren found the damage he accumulated for his own purposes working against him instead!

His death was the most spectacular. Once the damage reached a point past his limit, he exploded into a firework of black ink, which was instantly incinerated by Atticus.

The victory wasn't as absolute as the other three since Atticus and Haren went several hundreds of rounds before a victor was decided, but it was still a great achievement on Atticus' part.

Only, not many paid attention to him, as the Saint King began to show signs of movement.

Atticus looked at two locations for approval. Even if the rest of the atrium ignored him, he would be fine if they acknowledged him.

And in return, he was greeted with smiles all around.

A wave of relief overtook him as he walked back to his seat in confidence.

Damien watched him walk with a genuine smile on his face.

'I'm glad he's found a way out of that rut.'

The current Atticus was not the brat he fought when he first arrived in Luxurion, that much was certain.

However, he could talk to Atticus later. Right now...

Su Ren stood up and walked into the arena which was now empty aside from several black and red stains on the ground.

The Saint King also stood up from his "throne."

"Are you the one I am facing?" He asked tauntingly.

The undertone of his words was piercing, but Su Ren didn't back down.

"You and I both know the truth of the last battle. Come, face me again and prove you're worthy of my place," he responded unflinchingly.

The Saint King grinned.

"Hahahaha! So that is the source of this newfound confidence of yours? Very well, I will show you. Whether it was then or now..."

Bang!

He jumped from his perch and landed in the arena, facing Su Ren.

"...you are nothing but an ant to me."

The condescending expression in his eyes created a palpable sense of mockery that emanated through the crowd, provoking countless angered hisses and growls.

Su Ren didn't join the crowd, instead drawing his blades with the same calmness.

"Talk after you have won."

Su Ren jumped forward and made the first move, forcing the Saint King into his momentum.

Unlike when he fought Damien, the two blades in his hand were furious and each strike held the intent to kill and shatter the soul!

During his time observing Su Ren, he began to understand the nature of the latter's grey mana.

It was similar to the mana of a man he'd fought before, an unfortunate young soul named Hun Fang, but while Hun Fang used his mana to contact the spirits of beasts and contract them, Su Ren used it much more directly.

He attacked the spirit, almost touching upon the soul itself. The mana's properties were so mystical that they could halt Transcendent Regeneration, something Damien didn't even think was possible!

That very terrifying mana was currently bombarding the arena with such immense force that it looked apocalyptic. Su Ren and the Saint King's figures disappeared within the mana cloud, and other than the peak experts among the crowd, the rest could only follow the battle through sound.

It was a true shame for them, because witnessing the collision between these superpowers among their peers would've been an absolutely advantageous experience for them.

Nevertheless, even without the mana blocking their vision, it was hard to say whether or not they'd be able to follow the speed of battle!

Su Ren and the Saint King moved across the several hundred-kilometer large arena floor as if it was no more than a few tens of square feet. Every second, they were in another corner of the arena, absolutely destroying the mana protecting the outside world from their battle.

Several Demigods had to step up to maintain the barrier, and in the second it took for the stronger barrier to be out in place, a massive explosion of mana escaped the confines of the arena and blew through the atrium.

ROOOAAAAR!

It was like the roar of a dragon that sounded as the mana coiled up into the starry sky beyond.

While those observing could take the time to watch it, Su Ren wasn't the same.

Unlike how it looked, he needed to do everything in his power to fight equal to the Saint King.

It wasn't what he was expecting at all!

He definitely knew the Saint King would grow, but he didn't expect this much growth!

After all, Su Ren himself had stumbled upon a heavenly opportunity, the type unique in the entire universe, and also created his own form of mana to reach his current great strength.

What did the Saint King do?

Considering the nature of the Nox...

Just how many billions of lives were taken to give him this strength?!